

# Highlights

Since 1986 and every two years subsequently, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have collected data on the amount and quality of science and engineering research space, the extent to which universities, colleges, hospitals, and nonprofit research organizations were constructing new facilities and repairing existing space, and the funding of this activity. The findings highlighted below focus on biomedical research facilities — those located in the biological and medical sciences — and summarize those in the report, *The Status of Biomedical Research Facilities: 1996*.

- In 1996, institutions performing biomedical research devoted a total of 67.4 million net assignable square feet (NASF) to this research. The biological sciences occupied 53 percent of the total biomedical research NASF (35.9 million NASF) and the medical sciences occupied 47 percent of this space (31.5 million NASF).
- Forty-seven percent of all biomedical research-performing institutions classified the amount of biological science research space as inadequate, and 51 percent indicated that they had an inadequate amount of medical science research space. Forty-five percent of the biomedical research space at research-performing institutions was considered “suitable for use in the most scientifically competitive research.”
- In fiscal years 1994-1995, expenditures on projects to construct biomedical research space totaled \$1,521 million, a decline of \$723 million in constant dollars (adjusted for inflation) from the previous two fiscal years.
- Expenditures on projects to repair/renovate biomedical research space also declined from fiscal years 1992-1993, from \$710 million to \$674 million (in constant dollars).
- The largest proportion, 35 percent, of new construction was funded by state and local governments. Institutions used their own funds to finance 46 percent of all repair/renovation projects.
- In 1996, 36 percent of all institutions with biomedical research space reported capital projects, either construction or repair/renovation, that were needed but had to be deferred because funds were not available. The estimated cost for deferred biomedical research construction and repair/renovation projects totaled \$4.1 billion.
- In 1996, the 68 research-performing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) contained 2.4 million NASF of S&E research space; 29 percent of this space was designated for biomedical research. Sixty-seven percent of biomedical research space located in HBCUs was dedicated to the biological sciences and 33 percent to medical sciences. Five HBCUs started construction projects, totalling \$685,000 in fiscal years 1994-1995. Repair/renovation projects totalled \$6.9 million in that same time period.
- Eighty-five percent of research institutions (659) maintain laboratory animal facilities totaling 14,030,000 NASF. Eighty-two percent of the animal care research space fully met government regulations on the humane care of laboratory animals.